



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1995

No. 2

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SENSENBRENNER].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

January 5, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr., to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are grateful, O God, that Your spirit is with us wherever we are and is sufficient for all our needs. If we are on the mountaintop full of joy and anticipation, You are there in our jubilation, and if we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, You support us with Your strong and abiding grace. May our spirits be open to Your spirit, and our wills to Your will, that we will walk the path of life with confidence and with peace.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The Pledge of Allegiance this morning will be led by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY].

Mr. FOLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REPORT ON CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, we have 99 days left in our pledge to the American people with our Contract With America. Yesterday the House fulfilled its promise when we decided to apply all the laws that apply to other Americans to the House itself.

We cut the number of committees and subcommittees, we cut committee staff by one-third, we decided to limit the terms of committee chairmen, we banned proxy voting in committee, we opened committee meetings to the public in all cases except those that involve national security, and we decided to change the rules to require a three-fifths majority to raise taxes. We are going to eliminate baseline budgeting and have real numbers for the first time, and we announced we are going to have a complete, comprehensive audit of the House and its books over the past year.

There are 10 items that we are continued to commit to bring to the floor over these next 99 days. Republicans in the House are committed to doing that. We are committing to the American people to continue to live up to the contract that we made with you.

THE NEED FOR REAL LOBBYING REFORM

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, a famous Hartford resident once said that everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.

Well, to paraphrase Mark Twain, some people talk about reform, but they do not always do it.

Yesterday, we considered fundamental reform—a ban on gift giving. Yet, despite the majority's purported commitment to sweeping reform, some of the most zealous congressional reformers opposed this relatively minor change.

That is not right, and the American people deserve better.

Last November, Washington was sent a very strong message that business as usual must stop. That means we should have passed the gift ban.

I urge our friends on the other side of the aisle to follow through on their commitment to reform, and to pass legislation such as the gift ban to crack down on special interests and special influence. There can be no true congressional reform without it.

PROMISES MADE AND KEPT

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a great success. It was an exciting day for this House and for the American people.

Our opening day was about promises made and about promises kept, and we began to keep those promises yesterday. We fulfilled the first part of our Contract With America with a bipartisan coalition, and we thank you on that side of the aisle, because it means we are going to work together. We look forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan fashion with our Democratic colleagues on the other side of the aisle to pass the rest of this contract for

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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